



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

October 10, 2018

Ninan Duvall
MuckRock News
Dept MR 60067 411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144
60067-70846640@requests.muckrock.com

Re: DOJ-2018-007921 (AG)
DOJ-2018-007955 (AG)
VRB:VAV:ND

Dear Ninan Duvall:

This is to acknowledge and partially respond to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests dated and received in this Office on August 29, 2018, in which you requested records pertaining to directed energy weapons (DEW). This response is made on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General.

As you are aware, this Office is currently processing your FOIA request assigned the administrative tracking number DOJ-2018-007921 (AG). Because your new request assigned the administrative tracking number DOJ-2018-007955 (AG) seeks records similar to DOJ-2018-007921 (AG), we have administratively closed DOJ-2018-007955 (AG) as duplicate of DOJ-2018-007921 (AG). For any future communications pertaining to your request please reference administrative tracking number DOJ-2018-007921 (AG).

The records you seek require a search in and/or consultation with another Office, and so your request falls within "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. 552 § (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii) (2012 & Supp. V 2017). Because of these unusual circumstances, we need to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. For your information, we use multiple tracks to process requests, but within those tracks we work in an agile manner, and the time needed to complete our work on your request will necessarily depend on a variety of factors, including the complexity of our records search, the volume and complexity of any material located, and the order of receipt of your request. At this time we have assigned your request to the complex track. In an effort to speed up our process, you may wish to narrow the scope of your request to limit the number of potentially responsive records so that it can be placed in a different processing track. You can also agree to an alternative time frame for processing, should records be located, or you may wish to await the completion of our records search to discuss either of these options.

We have not yet made a decision on your request for a fee waiver. We will do so after we determine whether fees will be assessed for this request.

I regret the necessity of this delay, but I assure you that your request will be processed as soon as possible. If you have any questions or wish to discuss reformulation or an

alternative time frame for the processing of your request, you may contact me by telephone at the above number or you may write to me at the above address. You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Douglas Hibbard, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001; telephone at 202-514-3642; or facsimile at 202-514-1009.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal at <https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vanessa R. Brinkmann".

Vanessa R. Brinkmann
Senior Counsel